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Washington D.C. - We are spending \$8 billion a month in Iraq. That equates to \$2 billion a week, or \$267 million a day, or \$11 million an hour.

The following are some comparisons between what we are spending in Iraq as we "stay the course" indefinitely and what those funds could be used for instead.

I've been fighting for our military to get out of Iraq because I'm concerned about the loss of our troops and the future of our military, and also because I believe they have accomplished their mission there and the Iraqis must resolve their internal conflict themselves. However, I also wanted to demonstrate what these expenses mean to domestic policy in the United States and give you an idea of just some of the things that we could accomplish with this amount of money.

NATIONAL SECURITY

\$33.1 billion/yr Department of Homeland Security FY 07 budget
(4 months in Iraq)

\$10 billion (1-time) Equipping commercial airliners with defenses against shoulder-fired
(5 weeks in Iraq) missiles

\$8.6 billion/7 years Shortage of international aid needed to rebuild Afghanistan
(one month in Iraq)

\$5.2 billion (1-time) Estimated need for capital improvements to secure public transportation system (trains, subways,

buses)

(3 weeks in Iraq)

\$1.5 billion/year Radiation detectors needed at all US ports (rejected due to cost)

(5 days in Iraq)

\$1.4 billion/ year Double the COPS (community police grants) program

(5 days in Iraq)

\$800 million/year Public transportation personnel training and technical support

(72 hours in Iraq)

\$700 million/year 100% screening of all air cargo - rejected because of

(2 days in Iraq) cost (1/4 of domestic shipping and 1/2 of international shipping is done on passenger planes)

\$350 million (1-time) Make emergency radio systems interoperable (5 years after 9/11, this hasn't happened yet)

(1.2 days in Iraq)

\$500 million/year Double the firefighters' grant program

(2 days in Iraq)

\$94 million/year Restore cuts to cities hit on 9/11 in Homeland Security budget

(8-1/2 hours in Iraq)

DEFENSE

\$6 billion Double the number of Navy ships we are buying in the 2007 bill

(3 weeks in Iraq) from 6 ships to 12.

\$8 billion Double the number of total Air Force aircraft we are buying in this bill.

(1 month in Iraq) That's right - we could double the number of F-22s, Joint Strike Fighters,
C-130's, Global Hawks and Predators we are buying. Or, we could
double the number of Navy and Marine Corps aircraft we are buying -F-18s, V-22s, KC-130Js, etc.

HEALTH CARE/VETERANS

\$36 billion/5 years reduction for Medicare spending in president's fiscal year 2007 (FY 07)

(4-1/2 months in Iraq) budget

\$5 billion/5 years Cut in Medicaid in President's FY 2007 budget

(2-1/2 weeks in Iraq)

\$2.5 billion/5 years VA health care premium increases in this year's budget. Premiums will

(9 days in Iraq) double or triple and drug co-payments will increase, costing our military retirees \$2.4 billion over 5 years

\$100 million Additional funding recommended for mental health research for veterans

(9 hours in Iraq)

\$48 million Medical and prosthetic research for veterans

(half a day in Iraq)

\$65 million/yr National Institutes of Health research funding cuts in this year's budget

(6 hours in Iraq) (scientists are leaving the field of health research because funding has been cut so severely)

\$15 billion/yr Provide health insurance to 9 million children with no health insurance

(1-1/2 months in Iraq)

\$118 million/yr The Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides

(12 hours in Iraq) nutritional food packages for less than \$20 a month to more than
in the president's budget

EDUCATION

\$3.4 billion/yr Cut in education budget in president's FY 07 budget from FY 06 funding

(13 days in Iraq) level (over 40 programs including drug-free schools, federal support for
resource centers.

the

\$664 million/yr Perkins Loan program cut in president's FY 07 budget (would help

(2-1/2 days in Iraq) 463,000 low-income students attend college)

\$114 million/yr Even Start (eliminated in president's budget)

(10 hours in Iraq)

ENVIRONMENT/INFRASTRUCTURE

Nationally

\$300 million President's cut to Environmental Protection Agency budget in FY 2007

(1 day, 3 hours in Iraq)

\$253 billion/30 years Clean up contaminated sites in U.S. (Up to 350,000 contaminated sites

(2 years in Iraq) will require cleanup over the next 30 years according to a report released

\$9.11 billion National Park Service maintenance backlog

(1 month, 10 days in Iraq)

\$6 billion Forest Service backlog

(3 weeks in Iraq)

\$2 billion Fish and Wildlife Service backlog

(2 weeks in Iraq)

\$47.2 billion/yr Miscellaneous user fees throughout government imposed on taxpayers by

(6 months in Iraq) president's budget

\$1.7 billion/yr Grants to states cut in 2007 budget
(1 week in Iraq)

Pennsylvania

\$15 billion Fixing Pennsylvania's acid mine drainage sites
(2 months in Iraq)

\$8 billion Pennsylvania's wastewater infrastructure needs
(1 month in Iraq)

\$642 million Rehabilitation cost for Pennsylvania's most critical dams
(2 days in Iraq)

\$2.3 billion Pennsylvania's maintenance backlog for roads
(8 days in Iraq)

\$8 billion Pennsylvania's maintenance backlog for bridges
(1 month in Iraq)

\$5.26 billion Pennsylvania's drinking water infrastructure needs
(2-1/2 weeks in Iraq)

Southwestern Pennsylvania

\$10 billion Repair southwestern Pennsylvania's existing sewer systems to reduce
(5 weeks in Iraq) overflows and back-ups, bring clean water and effective wastewater treatment to areas that lack them
and install water and sewer infrastructure at targeted development sites

